

Proposed Community Health Worker Definition

A community health worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member and/or has a shared understanding of the community being served. This trusted relationship enables the CHW to:

1. Serve as a liaison between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery;
2. Assist in identifying and communicating gaps in current community and healthcare resources; and
3. Build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, coaching, mentoring, social support, and advocacy.

Proposed CHW Core Competencies

- Communication
- Interpersonal skills
- Service coordination
- Individual and community development
- Individual and community advocacy
- Basic teaching skills
- Organizational skills
- General knowledge of healthcare
- Cultural humility

Proposed CHW Legislation

- Define Community Health Workers
- Define Core Competencies
- Direct OSDH to develop approval process to certify curriculum